

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DR. FRANK MELOY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Dr. Frank Meloy and the positive impact he's had in Altoona and Logan Township in Blair County, Pennsylvania as both a professional educator and a dedicated public servant.

Dr. Meloy is a retired administrator with the Altoona Area School District. During his 42 year tenure with the district, he rose from the ranks of Special Education Teacher to Assistant Superintendent—a position he held for twenty years.

Dr. Meloy received his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Education degree from Pennsylvania State University and a Doctor of Education from Temple University.

In addition to his esteemed career in education, Dr. Meloy has been an elected Supervisor in Logan Township since 1996. At the end of his current term in 2013, he will have served eighteen continuous years on the Township Board of Supervisors—the majority of those years as Chairman.

Under Dr. Meloy's fiscal leadership, tax rates in Logan Township have remained among the lowest in the county, and he has saved his municipality thousands of dollars by refinancing several bond issues. He has been extremely instrumental in transforming the Township's system of fire protection into a modern, well-equipped and cost-effective unit. Dr. Meloy also has been the Township's representative on numerous committees and boards during his term, and has been recognized for his active volunteerism by several community organizations including the PA Homeless Children's Initiative, the Blair Bedford Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, and the Kiwanis Club of Altoona.

Dr. Meloy will be honored on December 12, 2013 at his last official meeting as a Township Supervisor. I congratulate him on this recognition, and thank him for his distinguished careers in education and public service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3309, INNOVATION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1105, SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL ACCESS AND JOB PRESERVATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I rise to speak on the rule governing debate for H.R.

3309, and about innovation in America—the great job creator. H.R. 3309 is a bill before its time as the America Invents Act was signed into law barely two years ago. Many of the major provisions of this landmark legislation which many on the Judiciary Committee and in this body voted for have not even been put into practice.

It is well documented that our innovation ecosystem—founded on patents—drives economic growth and job creation in the United States. From the hustle and bustle of downtown Houston, Silicon Valley, Chicago, New York, and even here in Washington, DC, Americans want to keep our cherished system as strong as possible. For the future of our economy, we cannot risk jeopardizing it. And while the AIA was unquestionably pro-innovator legislation, its post-grant challenge provisions also unquestionably shifted the balance of rights toward implementers and away from patent holders. The question is—just how much has that balance shifted?

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3309 contains a provision that concerns me greatly. Section 3 of the bill directs a court to award attorney fees and costs to prevailing party in patent infringement cases.

This provision, commonly called “Loser Pays,” is prevalent in England but has heretofore been unknown to the American legal system. And for good reason. Loser pays laws ensure that only the wealthiest members of society or large corporations can afford to undertake a civil action and also unnecessarily punishes individuals with serious and meritorious claims for seeking access to justice. Loser pays policies fail to recognize that a person or a business can have a legally legitimate dispute regarding fact and law, and yet still ultimately lose the case. Loser pays policy sets a dangerous precedent and may prevent individuals from pursuing even the most meritorious civil liability claims.

If “loser pays” is implemented it could be a roadblock for people pursuing whistleblower, consumer mortgage, employment discrimination and other civil rights cases. The real losers under a “loser pays” system in patent cases is the individual inventor and small businesses seeking to vindicate their constitutional right to the exclusive use of the discoveries and inventions.

Mr. Speaker, we should proceed with caution and engage in a deliberative process that takes the time to rehash and listen to all stakeholders.

Many small innovators—today's Priceline.coms, Yahoo's, Google's, Facebook's, Eli Lilly's, Twitter's, akin to yesteryears Edisons—have not had time to make their views heard.

I thank the Rules Committee for making in my amendment that modifies the Manager's Amendment to ensure that more small businesses are protected by providing that the customer stay exception applies to all small businesses with annual revenues under \$25 million.

A number of the provisions in this bill may be well-intentioned, but they have undesirable

consequences for the patent system as a whole. They have the potential to undermine the enforceability of all patent rights, no matter how valuable the patent, and thus potentially incentivize infringement.

That is why I offered three amendments in the Judiciary Committee and three in the Rules Committee yesterday.

My first amendment would have modified section 9(a) of the bill to preserve the right of an applicant to file a civil action to obtain a patent in district court “upon a showing of good cause or where justice so requires.” I offered this amendment in response to information I received during my discussion with stakeholders, including the Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit, which hears all patent claims.

I thank the Committee also for making in my amendment which requires the PTO Director, in consultation with other relevant agencies, and interested parties, to conduct a study to examine the economic impact of the litigation reforms contained in the bill (sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act) on the ability of individuals and small businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities to assert, secure, and vindicate the constitutionally guaranteed exclusive right to inventions and discoveries by such individuals and small business. This amendment supplements and improves the bill, which requires PTO to conduct 4 studies and submit reports to Congress. The required studies are:

I also joined with Ranking Member Conyers of the Judiciary Committee on an amendment that strikes Section 3(b) which requires that courts reward attorney's fees and expenses to the prevailing party. I urge Members to support this amendment as well.

Mr. Speaker, innovation is the engine that drives our economy. Let us not act rashly in passing legislation that will harm the ability or lessen the incentive of innovators to make the discoveries and create the products that will power our economy in the 21st century.

HONORING GREEN GROVE M.B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable and historical church, Green Grove M.B. Church.

Green Grove M.B. Church is one of the oldest churches in Belzoni, Mississippi. The 11th Mississippi Freedom Trail marker was unveiled at the church because of Rev. George Lee. Rev. Lee was an early participant in the Civil Rights Movement. Also, Rev. Lee was a vice president of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, a co-founder of the Belzoni branch of the NAACP, and a powerful public speaker.

In 1955, Rev. Lee addressed a crowd of 10,000 people that gathered for a voter registration rally in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Two weeks later, Lee was assassinated and no one was ever charged for his murder. Rev. Lee's funeral was held at Green Grove M.B. Church where the marker is erected. This was the 11th Mississippi Freedom Trail marker to be unveiled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Green Grove M.B. Church their determination and dedication to serving others and giving back to its community.

RECOGNIZING DOVER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dover High School of Dover, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Dover High School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and Dover High School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP WELLINGTON BOONE

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an incredible man of faith, with a true calling and heart for serving the Lord, Bishop Wellington Boone.

Bishop Wellington Boone was ordained into ministry in 1973, and in this same year, he married his childhood sweetheart, Kathryn. Today, Bishop Boone not only celebrates 40 years of ministry, but 40 years of loving marriage with his wife.

In today's world, it is unique and certainly admirable to see a couple celebrate 40 years of marriage. Their long-lasting marriage is a testament not only to their commitment to each other, but to their dedication in serving the Lord.

Bishop Boone's 40 years of leadership and service in ministry is also a tremendous accomplishment, and one that deserves recognition. Through his work, Bishop Boone has faithfully led others in their quest to glorify and serve the Lord.

Mister Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating Bishop Boone as he celebrates 40 years of ministry, and 40 years of marriage with his lovely wife, Kathryn. I extend my personal congratulations to them both, and wish them many more joyful years ahead in both their ministry and marriage.

HONORING DR. ANN C. NOBLE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Ann C. Noble, an Emerita Professor, Sensory Scientist and Flavor Chemist from the Department of Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis. I honor her today in conjunction with the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, which will be hosting an all day symposium in her honor on January 31, 2014.

Over the course of her career, Dr. Noble's research has contributed greatly to the advancement of viticulture and enology. Some of her most notable research conducted while at U.C. Davis was the application of multivariate statistics to sensory data and the creation of a standardized language to describe wine, known as the Wine Aroma Wheel. In addition to this important research, Dr. Noble has also published over 150 papers and book chapters and has taught many students at U.C. Davis through her course, titled "Wine Types and Sensory Evaluation".

For her work, Dr. Noble has been honored by the American Society for Enology and Viticulture, Decanter magazine, Women for Wine Sense and IntoWine.com. Significantly, Dr. Noble was the first female faculty hired into the Department of Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis.

As founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Wine Caucus, I am incredibly proud of, and grateful for, the contributions Dr. Noble has made to viticulture and enology in California. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Dr. Noble for her significant and lasting contributions to the American Wine Industry.

IN SUPPORT OF FARM BILL CONFERENCE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call upon my colleagues currently negotiating the Farm Bill through the Conference process to get the job done on behalf of our nation's farmers and agribusiness community.

I understand and respect the challenges facing the House and Senate in these final steps to getting a bill across the finish line. I also understand the significant differences between the two bills before us. But, it's time to get a deal done. We have waited long enough.

I have the privilege to serve on the Agriculture Committee and I join my colleagues in supporting the House-passed bill that equips our farmers with the tools and certainty they need to produce an affordable and stable food supply while making significant reforms and cutting wasteful spending. I am proud of the bill the House passed and support many of the provisions contained therein.

I join with my farmers back in the Eighth District of North Carolina in encouraging our negotiators to finish this work so we can get

a Five Year Authorization complete. It's time to get this bill to the President's desk. Our farmers and agribusiness community have waited long enough and our local economies depend on it.

HONORING BILL ERICKSON

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Erickson from Eaton, Colorado. A longtime dairyman, Mr. Erickson was recently honored with the Colorado State University Alumni Association 50 Year Club's Public Service Award for his work with 4-H, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) youth organization which promotes science, citizenship, and healthy-living through hands-on learning activities. Mr. Erickson has been involved with 4-H for 60 years.

Mr. Erickson became involved with 4-H as a child and has since served the Colorado agricultural community in a variety of leadership roles. He is a long-standing member of the Weld County Farm Bureau and has also served as president of both the Weld County 4-H Leadership Council and the Colorado 4-H Leadership Council. Now 84, Mr. Erickson continues to be involved with 4-H and serves on the Agriculture Committee for the Greeley Chamber of Commerce.

I am extremely grateful for Mr. Erickson's dedication to agricultural development and the youth of Weld County. Please join me in congratulating him on receiving this award.

HONORING BRINSON FUNERAL HOME

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable funeral home, Brinson Funeral Home.

Brinson Funeral Home was established in 1939 by Booker T. Brinson, Sr. and Ruby Brinson at 723 Aloe Avenue in Cleveland, Mississippi. They worked diligently in the farming industry in Sunflower County to be able to purchase their funeral home. In the early 80's their son, John Brinson, took over the business. John wanted to maintain the legacy and vision of his parents, who believed that every family they serviced was special and deserved the best during and after their bereavement.

The Brinson Funeral Home staff of funeral directors and morticians understands that it is "A Home That Service Built".

Mr. Brinson throughout the years has maintained the authenticity of the facility, while using the latest technology and educational tools, the funeral home continues to be a thriving establishment in the community. Brinson Funeral Home sponsors, contributes and participates in numerous youth and charitable organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Brinson Funeral Home for their dedication in being a corner stone in the City of Cleveland and Bolivar County Mississippi.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREATER ST.
MARK A.M.E. CHURCH'S 127TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Greater Saint Mark A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia as they celebrate a remarkable 127 years. The anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Greater St. Mark Church in Columbus. The event will also be an opportunity to welcome Reverend Kevin Moore as the church's new pastor.

Greater Saint Mark traces its roots back to 1886 when the seven original members began holding prayer meetings in a small house located on the land where the church stands today. From the prayer meetings, soon grew a Sunday school and eventually, a full church service with a devoted congregation. St. Mark assigned its first pastor, Reverend M.R. Wilson, in 1889, and from his pastorate came the church's original structure.

Since then, the Church has seen many changes. After Reverend W.L. Brown installed a new piano and organ, Reverend A.M. Threath purchased a new parsonage, transforming the old one into classrooms, a Pastor's study, and meeting space. Reverend W.J. Daniels helped the Church acquire new pews, carpeting, and a bell honoring Mrs. Susie Herte and Miss Clara Charleston. The Bussey-Hixon-Alexander Annex was built to accommodate a modern kitchen and restroom, a pastor's study, a secretary and finance office, a choir room, and a stewardess room. In honor of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Johnson, a scholarship fund was established, along with the donation of a church van.

In addition to the physical renovations to Greater St. Mark, many of the church's leaders have focused on advancing the spiritual impact the church can make on the surrounding area. Under the pastorate of Reverend B.A. Hart, Greater St. Mark held a planning meeting which eventually brought Citizens Trust Bank, a minority enterprise, to Columbus. He also established the Young Adult Ensemble and the Male Chorus to enhance the Church's music ministry, and introduced bi-weekly Bible study and Christian Education seminars. Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Morris oversaw the donation of a house to the Columbus Historic Foundation, on behalf of the church. In the three years of Reverend Henry E. Green's leadership, a new roof was installed and a church website was built. Now Greater St. Mark will be welcoming Reverend Kevin Moore into the family as the church's new pastor and more improvements are sure to come under his leadership.

What began as a small house for families to meet in prayer has grown into a family of its own, housing generations of church members and guiding them through their journey with the Lord. All of these additions and renovations exhibit the giving nature of the entire St. Mark congregation, as well as their dedication to serving Christ, each other, and the community. Not only do contributions and improvements to the church improve Greater St.

Mark's ability to spread the word of the Lord, but they also strengthen the bond the members have with each other.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Greater St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Columbus, GA for serving as a pillar of faith and fellowship to its members for the past 127 years. May God continue to bless the church and its congregation.

CAIRN UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Langhorne Manor, Pennsylvania is home to Cairn University as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. We acknowledge and congratulate the dedicated administrators and academic staff who have contributed greatly to its success. The school that began on July 8, 1913, as the Bible Institute of Philadelphia, and later the Philadelphia Biblical University, has grown to be an outstanding academic institution with a professed Christian mission to educate students who will graduate as professionally competent men and women of character to carry that mission forward into their church and society.

Cairn University students have the option of five schools: Divinity, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business and Leadership, Education and Music; two departments, Social Work and Christian Counseling, and graduate programs. On this occasion, we heartily congratulate Cairn University Chancellor W. Sherrill Babb and President Todd J. Williams and look forward to future achievement and the contributions Cairn graduates will make toward the betterment of their communities.

**THANKING STEVE KAESER FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE**

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on October 31, 2013, we would like to thank Mr. Steve Kaeser for his over twenty-five years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Steve has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Steve has held a multitude of senior engineering positions over the years and his technical expertise and skills have been invaluable to servicing customers in the House community as well as staff within Technology Support and Enterprise Operations. Before moving to Enterprise Operations, Steve served as an engineer on the Software Support Team, in the newly created Technology Call Center, and on the Escalations Team. Among his many accomplishments, Steve helped create and run the House's new anti-virus software program with the establishment of Trend. His other defining achievement was the establishment of

an Apps-server, which created a central access point for the download of all supportable software.

Moving forward, Steve has remained committed to supporting the ever-changing technology environment. After a few years in Technology Support, Steve joined Enterprise Operations where he became involved in critical aspects of client server architecture. He played an integral role in Windows server delivery and support and he performed system builds, security analysis and troubleshooting. In addition to server support, on occasion, Steve would lend his "radio" voice to the Recording Studio as a narrator for House training or you might see him at a co-workers desk helping them solve a problem. Throughout his career, Steve has provided House customers with the world class service they expect from the CAO.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Steve for his years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish Steve much happiness in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING JOSE R. ESCOBEDO III

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Sgt. Jose R. Escobedo, Jr. III. Born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Mr. Escobedo became a United States Citizen with the intention of enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. During over 10 years of service in the armed forces, Sargent Escobedo served in both the Marines and the Army and he served courageously during two tours of duty in Iraq.

Jose Escobedo graduated from Bowie High School in El Paso in 1995. After high school, he decided to join the Marines and served for nearly 9 years. After his honorable discharge, he worked for the city of Albuquerque in the Department of Transportation, but he missed the military. Eager to continue his service, "SGT Esco," as friends called him, decided to join the Army and after training he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment in Schweinfurt, Germany.

On November 19, 2008, Sargent Escobedo deployed to Iraq for the third time. Despite being in a combat zone, Jose was known by his fellow soldiers as a kind individual with a positive outlook on life that was infectious. He passed away on March 19, 2009 in Baghdad and at the age of 32.

Mr. Escobedo is survived by his wife, Angelica, and their three children, Elvida, Jose, and Mikey. He is interned in Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso. The dedication with which he served our nation for so many years is an inspiration. El Paso misses Jose Escobedo and we are proud to honor him as a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO ARLEIGH BIRK

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 72nd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, I rise to pay tribute to one of the true American heroes of that day, and of the long World War that followed—former Boatswain's Mate First Class Arleigh Birk, United States Navy.

Today, as Arleigh approaches his 94th birthday, he and Marion, his lovely wife of 67 years, still live in their family home in the northern Minnesota community of Hoyt Lakes, where they retired after Arleigh's 25 years of employment at Erie Mining Company from 1957 to 1982.

Seventy-two years ago, on Sunday, December 7, 1942, Arleigh was 4,028 miles west of Hoyt Lakes, stationed on the USS *Honolulu*, watching as Japanese warplanes filled the skies and the USS *Arizona* exploded in fire. The *Honolulu* itself sustained damage in the attack, and Arleigh was transferred to the USS *Denver* where he remained in the Pacific Theatre until the war's end.

During those years in the Pacific, Arleigh and his mates on the USS *Denver* were part of the force that engaged and sank the Japanese destroyers Minegumo and Murasame in the 1943 Battle of Blackett Strait.

In October 1943, they earned the Navy Unit Commendation for outstanding performance in the battle of Empress Augusta Bay for helping sink one enemy light cruiser and a destroyer, and heavily damaging two heavy cruisers and two destroyers.

On July 4, 1944, Arleigh and the crew of the USS *Denver* bombarded Iwo Jima, fought numerous battles throughout the Pacific, and fought off a Kamikaze attack on November 27th during action in the Leyte Gulf.

In September 1945, Arleigh and the *Denver* sailed from Okinawa to cover the evacuation of Allied forces imprisoned in the Wakayama area before heading home to Norfolk, Virginia, where they arrived on November 21st.

Arleigh was honorably discharged from the Navy on January 12, 1946—and honorably married to Marion a little over a year later.

On behalf of a grateful Congress and a grateful nation, we honor and thank Arleigh Birk for his service in the preservation of American freedom.

RECOGNIZING CAROLYN CLOSS-WALFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HER PROMOTION TO COLONEL

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Army Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn Closs-Walford who will today be promoted to the rank of Colonel. Like many of my colleagues, I have had the pleasure of working with and knowing LTC Closs-Walford both personally and professionally when she served in the Army's House Liaison Division.

LTC Closs-Walford's distinguished military career began at Winston-Salem State Univer-

sity when she joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps. She graduated in 1987 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps and accepted a position in the Army Reserve. The Signal Corps develops and manages communications systems for the U.S. military and is integral to its strength and resilience.

LTC Closs-Walford completed Signal Officers Basic Course at Fort Gordon in Georgia and settled in Washington, DC. She studied at National Louis University where she received a graduate degree. After, LTC Closs-Walford transferred to the Quartermaster Corps which provides logistic support for the Army.

Later, LTC Closs-Walford served in the Army's busy House Liaison Division where she was the first point of contact for Members and staff who called on the Army for assistance. While there, she developed, coordinated, and executed Congressional Delegations to Iraq, China, Israel, and Sudan, among others. Her professionalism, attention to detail, and hard work did not go unnoticed by Members who were lucky enough to travel with her.

LTC Closs-Walford's extraordinary career afforded her the opportunity to serve in the administrations of President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. She supported the Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor by serving as a liaison to Members of Congress, the Department of Defense, State Department, and the intelligence community by coordinating strategic communications and global outreach.

From the White House, LTC Closs-Walford moved to the Pentagon and worked in the office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and focused on women and gender issues, human rights, and international humanitarian policy.

Currently, LTC Closs-Walford serves in the National Guard Bureau's Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate. She is responsible for helping to develop the National Guard's outreach, communications, and messaging.

LTC Closs-Walford was born in Louisburg, North Carolina, located in Franklin County and in my congressional district. She is the youngest of 10 children born to William and Fannie Closs. Her father bravely served the United States in the military during World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart for his unflinching and valiant service in the face of danger. She is married to Raymond L. Walford.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of LTC Closs-Walford's distinguished career. As representative of the congressional district that LTC Closs-Walford is a native daughter, we salute her on this special day. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for honorable service to the United States of America and congratulating her on her much deserved and earned promotion.

HONORING BETHLEHEM
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, which is located at 2975 Cannonsburg Road in Cannonsburg, MS.

December 17–19, 2010 Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its 150th year anniversary with three days of festivities. Dr. Samuel White penned the church's history.

The Bethlehem Baptist Church was organized in 1860 by Rev. George White and other like-minded brothers and their wives. The Church was organized to serve the religious and spiritual needs of freed blacks and ex-slaves of the Cannonsburg community. Three prominent families populated the area and became active in the early church. They were the Whites, the Frisbys, and the Tylers. Even today, most of the church's membership is related to one or all three of these family lines. Later the Church's population grew to include the Comptons, Coles, Clarks, Herringtons, Perrymans, Hawkins, Kahos, Prees, Washingtons, Dorseys, Gambles, among others.

The original church was located on property lying between the Natchez Trace and the Cannonsburg Road. In 1907, the Church Fathers, Alfred White and James Compton, purchased a two acre tract of land from Gabe Tyler to build a "Church House." A white wood structure was erected with a potbelly stove in the center for heat. In 1965, this building was removed and the first brick sanctuary was built. The church membership outgrew the facility; and, in 1984, a major renovation and expansion project was undertaken and completed to include a Fellowship Hall and a Pastor's Study.

The current multi-purpose facility which was dedicated in April, 2005, represents the fifth building erected for the Church Family. In 1999, the Church Family initiated a five-year Building Plan to design, finance, and build a worship facility that would accommodate and serve the needs of a growing membership. Under the leadership of a dynamic Pastor, the Rev. Percy Turner, and an activist Board of Deacons, this goal was achieved in 2005. Additional property was purchased from the Golden Mutual Aide Society and Mrs. Carrie Jackson Johnson on which to build the new facility. Rev. John Hawkins, Deacon Charlie Hawkins, Sr. and Bro. Dwayne Hawkins—acting as Hawkins Construction, were all members of the congregation that constructed the new sanctuary and fellowship hall.

The Church has held a prominent position in the religious, social, and civic life of Jefferson County. Many of the early religious pioneers of the Black Baptist Movement in the county were either members or pastors of Bethlehem, i.e. Rev. P. C. Rucker, Rev. P. E. Frisby, and Rev. W. N. Tyler.

Bethlehem is also the site of the first Civil Rights mass meeting to be held in Jefferson County. While others feared retaliation from those who would burn crosses and churches, the leadership at Bethlehem took the bold steps to host the NAACP and challenge the racial inequities that existed in the 1960s. As a result, even today our community takes very seriously the right to vote and participates fully in the electoral process. Several members of this Church have attained the status of being the first of their race to be elected and/or appointed to political positions at the City, County, and State levels.

Since the church has been at its present location, the following individuals have served as Pastors: Rev. George White, 1902–1905; Rev. P. C. Rucker, 1906–1909; Rev. P. E. Frisby, 1909–1918; Rev. John Alexander, 1918–1928; Rev. W. N. Tyler, 1928–1931;

Rev. D. W. M. Johnson, 1931–1940; Rev. Wilson Ford, 1940–1948; Rev. Jimmy Jones, 1948–1982; Rev. Percy Turner, 1983–Present.

Over the years, the following persons have served as Associate Ministers: Rev. Alf White, Rev. Marcus Frisby, Rev. Louis Frisby, Rev. Louis White, Rev. Edgar White, Rev. Leon Dorsey, Rev. David White, Rev. George A. Tyler, Rev. Aubry Watson, Rev. Juanita Tyler, Rev. Ernest Gaines, Rev. Andrew Dorsey, Rev. Mandy Green, Rev. John H. Hawkins, Rev. Charles Kaho, and Rev. John Tyler.

Some dynamic men have served as Deacons; they include: Bro. Phillip White, Bro. Jackson Tyler, Bro. Richard Tyler, Bro. Wilson Tyler, Bro. James Compton, Bro. Sanford "Sam" White, Bro. Bivens Cole, Sr., Bro. Daniel White, Bro. Juanita Tyler, Bro. Aubry Watson, Bro. General Jenkins, Bro. Leon Dorsey, Bro. Frank White, Bro. John Tyler, Bro. Monroe Griffin, Bro. Leon Dorsey, Jr., Bro. Frank Gamble, Bro. Charles Kaho, Bro. John H. Hawkins, Bro. Jerome Herrington, Jr., Bro. Willie J. Pree, Bro. Robert L. White, Bro. Samuel L. White, Sr., Bro. Larry D. Tyler, Bro. Charlie Hawkins, Sr., Bro. Roosevelt "Bill" White, Bro. Keith King, Bro. Joseph Cole, Sr., and Bro. Jerry Sims.

Over the years, the Mother's Board (Deaconess Board) has included: Sis. Arnetta C. Tyler, Sis. Lou Virginia White, Sis. Kizzie Tyler, Sis. Ella Tyler, Sis. Juanita Tyler, Sis. Celeste Frisby, Sis. Irene Tyler, Sis. Jinice Sanders, Sis. Ora Clark, Sis. Mindy White, Sis. Effie Turner, Sis. Henretta Compton, Sis. Lillie Perryman Jackson, Sis. Virginia S. White, Sis. Martha White, Sis. Mary E. Dorsey, Sis. Floridia Jones, Sis. Louella White, Sis. Doris Kaho, Sis. Mae Rose Herrington, Sis. Sarah Griffin, Sis. Carrie Jenkins, Sis. Augusta Ballard, Sis. Lettie Irving, Sis. Gertrude White, Sis. Cora White, Sis. Almeta Dorsey, Sis. Mamie Herrington, Sis. Edna Holmes, Sis. Laura Reed, Sis. Laura Tyler, Sis. Effie Woods, Sis. Jean Hawkins, Sis. Levater White, Sis. Lollie J. Doss, Sis. Johnnie R. Tolliver, and Sis. Sophronia Evans.

The membership is proud of its rich history and Christian traditions. We will continue to celebrate the accomplishments of our forefathers, but more importantly, we are dedicated to embracing God's call to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to win souls to Christ through love, dedication, loyalty, and service to mankind. We humbly thank God for more than 150 years of service and we pray for His continued blessings and divine guidance as we demonstrate to the world that Bethlehem is the place where "Our Feet are on the Rock and Our Names are on Heaven's Roll."

Since the writing of this history in 2010, the name of the Bethlehem Baptist Association has changed to Jefferson County Baptist Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church for its outstanding service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CATHERINE "KATE" ERTZ-BERGER UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding career of Ms. Catherine "Kate" Ertz-Berger, Executive Director of the Contra Costa Child Care Council, and congratulate her as she retires after twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the children and families of Contra Costa County.

Kate's deep passion for helping others was evident early in her career, during her tenure with the Massachusetts Department of Social Work and the United Way of the Bay Area. She brought that same passion to the Contra Costa Child Care Council in 1985 and has been the heartbeat of that agency for nearly three decades. Under Kate's dynamic leadership the Council has grown to be one of the largest and most effective nonprofit organizations in the San Francisco East Bay serving families throughout our community.

Kate has shown remarkable command of the issues most critical to early education and the needs of families with small children. Under her guidance, the Council has greatly increased public awareness of the need for quality child care and early childhood education through the development of a wide variety of innovative initiatives, programs and services. Most importantly, she has forged lasting partnerships with the community, parents and child care providers.

I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Executive Director Kate Ertz-Berger, for her committed and diligent service to the children and families of Contra Costa County. I am pleased to call her my friend and wish her the very best as she begins a well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING TWIN GROVES MIDDLE SCHOOL ON BEING NAMED A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. BRADLEY S. SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Twin Groves Middle School in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, in the district I represent. This outstanding educational institution has been recognized as one of only 286 Blue Ribbon schools in the entire country.

This is the second National Blue Ribbon distinction that Twin Groves has earned, one of 21 awarded in the state, one of only three awarded to Illinois middle schools and one of four awarded to schools in Illinois's Tenth District.

Good education is the foundation of any community, and it is essential to our success in the 21st Century. In Buffalo Grove, you will find some of the nation's finest schools, filled with eager and curious students and passionate and engaging teachers.

In Illinois's Tenth District, our communities are strong, in part, because of excellent educational institutions like Twin Groves.

With schools like Twin Groves, Tenth District students are building foundations for success in this ever-changing, competitive 21st Century.

The education Twin Groves Middle School students receive not only helps position them for future success, but also prepares them for the rigors of one of the area's top high schools, Stevenson High.

Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to honor Twin Groves Middle School here today, and I am so proud to have such excellent schools in the Tenth District. I congratulate Twin Groves once again on receiving this distinguished award.

RECOGNIZING MORRIS COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Morris County School of Technology of Denville, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Union Morris County School of Technology is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and Morris County School of Technology is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MR. DARREN MILLER OF MURRYSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. KEITH J. ROTHFUS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Darren Miller of Murrysville, Pennsylvania.

On August 29, 2013, Darren became the first American man and only the fourth person in history to complete the seven grueling open-water swims known as the Ocean's Seven challenge. He spent over seventy-five hours braving frigid waters, treacherous weather conditions, and dangerous wildlife while swimming across bodies of water including the English Channel, the North Channel between Scotland and Northern Ireland, and the Strait of Gibraltar. Darren is the only person to ever complete all of the swims on the first attempt.

A graduate of Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville and Pennsylvania State University, Darren is a product of the first-class educational institutions in our Commonwealth. Darren used our beautiful lakes and rivers in Western Pennsylvania to train for his

historic feat, a reminder that the tools for success are within reach.

Darren also swims to benefit and raise awareness for the Forever Fund, an organization he cofounded, to help families pay for the costs of treatment in the infant cardi thoracic unit at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. He has raised more than \$65,000 to date.

Darren named the Forever Fund in remembrance of his grandmother. "She taught me that success has nothing to do with your pocketbook, but by how you treat someone who can do you absolutely no good," he recently said. Darren's personal motto is "Every breath a gift," meant to inspire today's youth to overcome personal challenges and persevere in accomplishing one's personal goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor Darren Miller's outstanding athletic achievements and service to our community and his fellow man.

RECOGNIZING RAFAEL PINEDA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you today to honor Mr. Rafael Pineda, who will retire as the lead news anchor for Univision 41 on December 20th. For 42 years Mr. Pineda has been a key voice in providing the Latino community in the New York area with unparalleled news coverage.

Since his 1972 undertaking as the lead news anchor at WXTV Univision 41, Mr. Pineda has consistently demonstrated a zest for journalism that is balanced, and offers fair, universal access to all audiences. In 1988 he became host of, "Punto y Aparte," the first Spanish language first local interview program in the tri-state area. Over the last several years he has consistently guided Noticias 41 to first place in New York's Spanish language newscasts.

Rafael Pineda has served as an ongoing inspiration for all Latinos by building one of the most distinguished careers in television. Mr. Pineda was the first local news anchor to interview major political figures like President Clinton, and influential celebrities like the late Desi Arnaz. In the year 2000, he was the first Latino to be honored in the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Silver Circle, and over the years he has won several awards, including an Emmy. Most recently, Mr. Pineda was inducted into The New York Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Pineda has developed a career that has paralleled my own in regard to public service, and as a colleague, I have been consistently inspired by both his integrity and his unwavering sense of dedication to his audience and to the news. Over the years, I have appeared on his program many times, both in interviews with Mr. Pineda and in news stories concerning legislative issues. I always found that Mr. Pineda was tough but fair in the questions he asked and the issues considered. Regardless of the subject, or his own personal views, he always had the best interests of his audience in mind. After 42 years of service Mr. Pineda has grown to embody all of the best characteristics of the New York area, and I am

proud to call him a colleague and a friend. He is an invaluable member of the community whose dedication to the people can be seen in all his work throughout the years, and whose on-air presence will certainly be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Rafael Pineda as an Emmy award winner, as New York's longest-serving news anchor in history, and most importantly, as an outstanding example of how one person's lifelong work can leave such a permanent mark in the hearts and minds of many.

HONORING THE NAPA VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Napa Valley Education Foundation as they celebrate their 30th anniversary on December 7th, 2013, at their Annual Taste for Knowledge and Gala Fundraising Event. The Napa Valley Education Foundation (NVEF) deserves recognition for their tireless efforts over the past thirty years to improve the quality of education for all children within the Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD).

Since its creation in 1983, the NVEF has demonstrated an admirable commitment to achieving its self-proclaimed vision to create "great public schools that inspire all children to achieve their potential and become vital members of our community." In pursuit of realizing this vision, the NVEF has made significant improvements in the quality of education possible for all students in the NVUSD.

Such improvements include the Teacher Grants Program, now known as the Spencer and Colton Grants, which was founded by the NVEF in 1983 and has raised a total of more than \$1.5 million to fund the implementation of improved teaching strategies. Additionally, the NVEF has created The Music Connection, which brings music education and exposure to over 3,000 students, as well as the Campaign to Sustain Music, which has raised \$85,000 annually over the past three years to sustain the NVUSD's music education programs. The NVEF has also created Tech Connection, a program to assist families in purchasing laptops for their children. Finally, the NVEF coordinates the Teacher of the Year Awards, which recognize and honor exceptional teachers within the NVUSD each year.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank the Napa Valley Education Foundation for their thirty years of unwavering commitment to improving the quality of education for every student within the Napa Valley Unified School District.

HONORING COOLEY MORTUARY, INC

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor as extraordinary Fu-

neral Home Business in the Mississippi Delta, Cooley's Mortuary of Batesville, MS.

Cooley's Mortuary, Inc. opened its doors in April 1990, beginning a tradition of professionalism, dedication and compassionate care to families in Batesville, Panola County, Mississippi and the surrounding communities. After serving in the United States Army for two years, and in pursuit of a need to do something "useful" with his life, Jerry Cooley enrolled into the Commonwealth College of Mortuary Science, Houston, Texas where he soon graduated and received his National Board Certified license in 1978. He began a career as funeral director and mortician at Brown Mortuary, Inc. in Laurel, Mississippi. With encouragement from his dear mother and a great ambition calling him higher, Jerry Cooley moved to Batesville, Mississippi in August 1984 where he worked as funeral manager and embalmer at Century Funeral Home.

In April of 1990, a longtime dream of Jerry Cooley's became a reality when he and his wife, Norma Jean, held an open house for a "first-generation" funeral home located at 327 Panola Avenue, Batesville, Mississippi. Cooley's Mortuary, Inc. made history in that year by accomplishing what not many other first-generation funeral homes had ever done; they received an astounding 50 calls by year's end and their first few months in business. Building on the strong foundation of compassion and service, and providing quality care to the families of Panola county, and surrounding communities, the business grew over the next several years.

Throughout the years, Cooley's Mortuary, Inc. has employed a number of additional staff, all of whom have been committed to excellence and stellar service for their customers. They have worked closely for many years as a cohesive unit serving the needs of the community with dignity, care and compassion. The business thrived and continued to set a standard for funeral service in the Panola County area.

They say "beside every successful man stands a woman" and without question this is certainly the case with Cooley's Mortuary. The business would not have existed without Norma Jean Cooley. Her strong support and countless hours of work should not go unmentioned. She has served as Vice President and serves the business faithfully enabling it to respond to and serve families in their time of need.

November 29, 2007 marked a new era and a lifelong dream fulfilled for Jerry and Norma Cooley with the groundbreaking of a new modern facility. The "second generation" Cooley's Mortuary, Inc. was built and dedicated in August 2009, making it a premier funeral home in Batesville, Mississippi. The 11,700 square foot facility is constructed on a two acre lot and includes four offices, a library, prayer room, two family viewing rooms, and a chapel with a seating capacity for 250 people. In Cooley's own words, "I wanted to have the very best for the people we serve."

Cooley's Mortuary is a family owned community-located funeral home which has earned a reputation for service, affordability and reliability over the years. Word-of-mouth, without question, is its finest endorsement. Regardless of whether or not a family comes to Cooley's Mortuary for the first time, or considers it to be their "family" funeral home, Cooley's Mortuary

takes personal interest in helping families during the most difficult times, and families continue to overwhelmingly trust them as their premier funeral home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Cooley Mortuary, Inc. for its dedication to serving this great state and country.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES "CHICO"
DANIELS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Charles "Chico" Daniels. Chico Daniels was known those who knew him as a Chicagoan well-versed in politics with a voice made to sing soul music. Chico Daniels was known to those who knew him for his humor that brought laughter and joy to those around him. Given my longtime relationship with his family, I know first-hand that Chico Daniels was a loving father who supported his children through good times and bad. He was adored by his family and his community, and we all will deeply miss his caring spirit.

Chico was born in Chicago, IL on May 20, 1957 to Quinion and Mildred Daniels. He grew up on the West Side of Chicago, attending Nash Elementary School and Austin High School and worshipping at the Helping Hand Church. Chico acquired an ear for music at a very young age. His signature deep baritone earned him the title of "Little Al Green." In his early 20s, he performed at many of the clubs in Chicago, opening for well-known musicians. Music was most definitely his soul. In addition to being a talented singer, he also was a gifted composer, guitarist, pianist, drummer and organist.

Chico died on November 26, 2013. His parents (Quinion and Mildred) and his siblings (Eddie and Beverly) preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife Rozena Daniels, his children Lavell, Octavia, Jenell, Shavone and Francie; his two remaining siblings Valerie and David; six grandchildren and a host of friends and family.

COACH JOHN WILLIE ('JOHNNY')
PEOPLES

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, whereas, The late Coach John Willie ('Johnny') Peoples of Baytown's Carver High School won three PVIL state football championships; and

Whereas, Coach Peoples, as a student himself, earned a scholarship to attend Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he enjoyed a stellar career in three sports: football, basketball and track & field; and

Whereas, Johnny Peoples, in 1945, was a member of the Wiley College football team that defeated Florida A & M (32-6) to win the Negro National Championship; and

Whereas, Coach Peoples was perhaps one of the greatest athletes ever to attend Wiley College; and

Whereas, Coach People received his Bachelor of Science degree from Wiley College in 1948 and earned a Master's Degree from Texas Southern University; and

Whereas, Coach Peoples joined the faculty of George Washington Carver High School of Baytown, Texas in 1948 and remained there until 1967, playing a huge part in the Goose Creek CISD High School and Baytown's sport history,

Whereas, No other Baytown high school coach has ever won a single football state championship for Baytown, while Coach Peoples has won three; and be it therefore

Resolved: That I, Congressman STEVE STOCKMAN of the 36th District of Texas, do hereby proudly agree and resolve that the late Coach John Willie ('Johnny') Peoples be publicly and officially honored as one of the finest athletes ever to come out of Baytown, Texas, and one of the best coaches in the United States; and to recommend his induction into the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association (PVILCA) Hall of Honor.

HONORING HORACE ELLIOTT

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Horace Elliott from Greeley, Colorado. Mr. Elliott currently serves as Executive Vice President of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE) and has recently received several awards for his dedication to the chiropractic profession. Earlier this year, Mr. Elliott was the recipient of the 2013 NBCE Leadership Award and was also recognized as Dynamic Chiropractic's Person of the Year.

Mr. Elliott's 27-year career has been characterized by a dedication to his patients and his community. For his work, Mr. Elliott has received honorary doctorates from Texas Chiropractic College and the American College of Chiropractors, and has also been named an honorary fellow of the International College of Chiropractors. He was elected to the board of the Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care in 2010.

In spite of these professional commitments, Mr. Elliott has also made time to be an active member of his community. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce and holds a seat on the board of the Greeley Rotary Club. He is also a Chamber Representative to the City of Greeley Planning Commission.

I feel very fortunate to represent someone as talented and involved as Mr. Elliott. Please join me in thanking him for his many contributions to Greeley.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that many of our colleagues across the

aisle are hoping and betting that the Affordable Care Act will fail.

But every day it becomes clearer that they are losing that bet and their hope for failure is not shared by the American people, 105 million of whom already have received coverage for one or more free preventive health care services like screenings for breast cancer and diabetes.

In my state of Texas, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more than 5,198,00 individuals with private insurance who have received coverage for one or more free preventive services due to the Affordable Care Act.

Children have received free vision and hearing screenings and recommended immunizations.

Adults have received free immunizations and cancer screenings such as colonoscopies for cancer, cholesterol and high blood pressure screening; and HIV.

Women have received preventive services such as recommended mammograms and Pap smears; screenings for gestational diabetes; and domestic violence counseling.

Our Republican friends like to tell themselves that Obamacare is an unmitigated disaster. But to millions of Americans living in the real world, Obamacare is an unqualified success.

TEXAS—ACA SUCCESS STORIES

Take Mark and Lucy for example,

After comparing plans, Mark Sullivan, a new business owner, settled on a bronze option and added dental insurance. He will receive an \$82 per month subsidy, which will halve the monthly premium he will pay down to \$78.

Lucy is another Texan who is thankful for the Affordable Care Act, which is enabling her to save \$2,300 a year on her premium and \$4,000 on her deductible.

Lucy writes: "I signed up at Healthcare.gov and I'm going to save \$2,300 a year on my premium alone—and more, because my deductible will drop from \$7,500 a year to \$3,000 a year. It's still Blue Cross insurance, and I don't have to change doctors, either. I had a choice of over 30 plans and several different companies."

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas favor the Affordable Care Act because they understand the insecurity and feeling of helplessness of being uninsured or underinsured. My home state of Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured, 27.6 percent in the nation, 4 percent more than Louisiana, the next state on the list.

Mr. Speaker, health care coverage not only must be available and affordable but also adequate for consumers to have the health security and financial protection they need and deserve. The Affordable Care Act satisfies these criteria.

Of course we should not be surprised by the House Republicans. After all, it is was the House Republicans who shut down the federal government for 16 days and cost the economy \$24 billion while refusing to consider any legislation that would create jobs or address the real needs of the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE
OF BETTY BENNETT

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement from my office, it is my pleasure to recognize the lifetime of public service that Betty Jean Robinson Bennett has provided to Chilton County, the State of Alabama, and our country.

For a Member of Congress, a staple of good representation is listening to the concerns of constituents and addressing community needs identified by local officials and business, education, agricultural, and civic leaders. The role of the congressional field representative is essential to connecting what is happening on a daily basis in our communities to the work being done in the U.S. Congress. In Betty Bennett, I have had an effective, dedicated, and loyal staff member who has helped me to represent the Sixth District in Washington.

Betty, or "Miss Betty" as she is affectionately known, has deep roots in Chilton County. She attended Clanton Elementary School and Clanton Junior High School and graduated from Chilton County High School with honors and responsibilities including her position as editor of the school magazine in her senior year and membership in the National Beta Club.

In 1968, Betty began an association with government service and political activity that became a lifetime vocation. Her career and experiences provide a fascinating reflection on Alabama's recent political history. One of many originally-enrolled Democrats to later join the Republican Party on principle, Betty is the only person to have been the President of both the Democrat and Republican Women's Clubs in Chilton County. She continues to serve on the Chilton County Republican Executive Committee and on the Alabama Republican Executive Committee representing Chilton County.

Betty's leadership skills were recognized when she was chosen as the Selective Service Director for the State of Alabama, a presidentially-appointed position, in May 1990. She was recommended by Governor Guy Hunt and appointed by President George H.W. Bush through the National Director of the Selective Service System, Samuel K. Lessey, Jr. Betty was the first woman to serve as a state director and is the only woman to ever serve in that capacity in Alabama.

As director, Betty coordinated the appointment of all local Selective Service Boards and directed personnel in three National Guard and Reserve Unit detachments in Montgomery and Birmingham. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of Alabama by Governor Hunt for her achievements after being nominated by officers of the National Guard and Reserve and the Alabama Adjutant General.

Betty began her congressional duties in January 1997 as a field representative for then-Congressman Bob Riley in the Third District. She joined my staff in January 2003 after Bob was elected Governor of Alabama and has provided more than a decade of diligent service to the people of the Sixth District.

During that time, Betty has ably represented my office during the development of a number of important projects, including the establishment of the Jefferson State Chilton-Clanton Center. With her deep knowledge, she has always been my liaison to the agricultural community and has worked closely with the Alabama Farmers Federation, whose President Jimmy Parnell is also from Chilton County. Betty is an advocate for the local peach industry and can always be counted on for her support of the Chilton County Peach Festival. Above all, Betty has always cared about helping people and finding solutions to problems.

Betty's service and love of her home county has been commemorated, appropriately enough, at Chilton County High School. In 2006, then-Principal Larry McHaffey started the Betty Robinson Bennett Leadership Scholarship for a senior exhibiting academic achievement as well as leadership in school, community, and church activities. What was more meaningful to Betty than a scholarship being named in her honor, I am sure, is the help it offered to a student and future leader.

On Friday, December 6, Betty's legacy of service will be celebrated during a reception at Jemison City Hall. Her many friends know very well that "retirement" is just a word to Betty and that she will remain visible and active in her community for many years to come.

Let me close by again expressing my appreciation to Betty for her service to my office, the people of the Sixth District, and the State of Alabama during a most remarkable career.

**HONORING DELTA BURIAL
CORPORATION**

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Funeral Home Business in the Delta, Delta Burial Corporation of Marks, Mississippi.

Delta Burial Corporation in Marks, Mississippi was first organized in 1927. It took on new life in 1928, when a couple of men got together and had it incorporated.

The founders of Delta Burial were Silas Kelly, I.W. LouAndrew and Rueben Price. The Officers at that time were: John Melchor—President; Dan Nickels—Vice President; Mamie Ruth Smith—Secretary; Hernando Butts—Treasurer and A.L. Saddler—General Manager and Agent.

Delta Burial Corporation is the only corporation that was owned by all black stockholders and still is today. The company started out with one building in Marks, MS, and then got stronger and added four more locations to serve the areas. The branches are: Belzoni Branch, Belzoni, MS; Clarksdale Branch, Clarksdale, MS; Lexington Branch, Lexington, MS and Mound Bayou Branch, Mound Bayou, MS.

Delta Burial is a business that provides burial, life insurance and pre-arrangements services for the deceased and their families. We strive to provide the highest quality of service to accomplish our goals. Our motto is "Seldom Equal, Never Excelled."

Delta Burial officers today are as follows: Manuel Killebrew—President, Fannie Smith—

Executive Secretary; Irma Jean Bell—General Manager; Aaron Gunn III, Dexter Howard and Cedric Burnett—Morticians; and Shelton Leonard—Funeral Director.

Each year Delta Burial gives back to the community and surrounding areas by donating funds for different causes and to the less fortunate. Also, they distribute Black History calendars, fans and yearly planners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Delta Burial Corporation for its dedication to serving our great country.

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT D.
WHITE**

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the retirement of Lieutenant Colonel Robert D. White, we hereby acknowledge his exemplary military career of service and honor in the United States Air Force. Colonel White began his Air Force career as an officer and instructor pilot with the 37th Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, Mississippi in September 1992 and proceeded into various other positions of leadership, including Chief of Disclosure and Release Division Headquarters, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in Virginia, which provides geospatial intelligence in support of national security. Colonel White also served as Chief of Flight Safety for the Air National Guard, Andrews Air Force Base. And as a command pilot, he logged more than 4,500 hours in the air and served overseas. For his outstanding service and leadership in flight safety, Colonel White was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Second Oak Leaf Cluster. His singularly distinctive accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force. We thank Colonel White for his service to our country and congratulate him on the successful completion of his duty as a United States Air Force officer.

**CONGRATULATING MUNILLA CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ON
THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Munilla Construction Management (MCM) on their 30th anniversary, and to commend its exemplary service to the Miami community.

MCM is a construction company founded in Miami, FL in 1983, which specializes in Heavy Civil and Building Construction. However, their history dates back to 1941 where for nearly two decades Fernando Munilla, Sr. was one of Cuba's premier builders and a pioneer in construction methodology. His endeavors included an engineering firm, three of the largest concrete plants, and a construction management company. His work in Cuba included major projects such as the Jose Marti Monument in Havana, and the Cuyaguatije River Bridge. However in 1960 Fidel Castro confiscated his firm and the Munilla family was separated.

Four of his sons were brought to the United States through the Pedro Pan airlift operation, only days before the Bay of Pigs invasion. Two more brothers remained in Cuba with their mother, Maria. Fernando also remained in Cuba where he led covert operations along with the CIA. He later managed to escape where he eventually reunited his family, and settled in Miami. It was there that MCM was founded and thrived, earning a reputation for managing the construction of some of the most complex and challenging projects in South Florida.

The commitment and hard work of MCM's personnel has resulted in it being named one of the fastest growing Hispanic Construction Firms in Florida. Not only that, they are the 7th largest Hispanic contractor in the United States as ranked by Hispanic Business Magazine (2012), as well as being ranked among the top 400 contractors in the United States by ENR magazine. They have also been awarded numerous accolades including the Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) Design-Build Project of the Year for 2010, the Hispanic Company of the Year 2008 by the South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Regional Contractor of the Year 2008 by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Having known the Munilla family for years, I can attest to their high degree of integrity, character and professionalism. They have also become very close friends of mine and are truly one of the most exceptional, loyal, trustworthy, and caring friends I have. It is a privilege to know all six of the Munilla brothers and their families. In addition, they have been devoted to their company, their employees, and the Miami community since its inception in 1983. Today, the Munilla family's dedication has made MCM an irreplaceable company for South Florida, and their family has become a treasure for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Munilla Construction Management, and the entire Munilla family, as they celebrate this milestone. I am certain that we can all look forward to many more years of outstanding service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their outstanding achievement.

VELTON LOCKLEAR III

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Army Sgt. Velton Locklear III, who died while serving his nation in Iraq.

Sergeant Locklear, known as "Lock" by his friends, was an El Pasoan, and graduate of Eastwood High School. During high school, he excelled at football and was an All-Star wide receiver.

Sergeant Locklear, like so many of his family members, wanted to serve in the Armed Forces. His two sisters, Julie and Lori, served in the Army and his father is retired Sgt. Maj. Velton Locklear Jr., who served in the Army for over 24 years.

After going to college at North Texas University, Velton decided to serve his country by joining the Army. During his career, he served

two tours of duty in Iraq. He volunteered for his first tour of duty and began his deployment in February of 2004. Soldiers who served with him, described Locklear as a gentle giant, who made the day better with words of encouragement during hard times and witty humor in good times. Another soldier said Sergeant Locklear was like a breath of fresh air; always positive, always had a smile on his face. His first tour ended in March 2005.

The second time Locklear deployed to Iraq was with the 25th Infantry, 3rd Brigade 2-27th Infantry Battalion in August of 2005. On Sept. 23 Mr. Locklear died in Riyadh, Iraq due to injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee during combat.

Mr. Locklear was a committed and loving husband to his wife Denise and their two sons, Velton IV and Nathan, who reside in El Paso. He served our country courageously and with honor. Sergeant Locklear's service and dedication is an example to others and I am proud to honor him as a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE AND THE TPP

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from Wisconsin (Rep. MARK POCAN) for organizing last night's Special Order Hour on raising the minimum wage and the negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

I very much welcome this opportunity to talk about trade issues, the minimum wage, and the growing wage gap in our country because they are closely related, in different ways, to one of the most urgent social, economic and political challenges of our time. I'm talking about the problem of growing inequality in the United States.

Over the past three decades, income inequality in the United States has been steadily on the rise. In fact, just before the 2008 financial crisis, the U.S. reached levels of inequality not seen since the late 1920s.

Today, the United States has the highest level of inequality of any advanced industrial nation. According to an analysis by the AFL-CIO, the average CEO at 327 available companies in the S&P 500 index is paid 354 times the average worker.

Moreover, a recent study showed that in 2010, the top 1 percent of U.S. families captured as much as 93 percent of the Nation's income growth gained during the economic recovery. So, this means that the most unequal advanced industrial economy in the world is becoming more so.

It is time to have an open debate and discussion on the wage gap in our country. This is important from a moral standpoint, as a matter of equity and fairness. But it is also important from an economic and political standpoint. That is, excessive inequality not only undermines social and political cohesion, it has also been shown to have negative effects on growth.

Recent research at the IMF has shown that excessive inequality slows growth because de-

pressed earnings lead to weaker demand and lower consumption.

Now, I understand that in a capitalist system, some degree of inequality is necessary for the function of a market economy, since it creates incentives to work hard and take risks. Left entirely to its own, however, the market system will produce more inequality than is economically necessary. And here in America, we have much more inequality than is necessary for efficiency.

This is also a political problem. We now have an increasing degree of resistance on the part of a lot of Americans to efforts to enter into new trade agreements because they are viewed as elevating the interests of capital over all other considerations.

Last month, I joined with 150 of my congressional colleagues in a letter to the President to express our serious concerns about the ongoing negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We urged the President to engage in broader and deeper consultations with Members of Congress about what will be included in this broad-ranging international trade agreement. In addition to tariff issues, this agreement could include provisions related to labor, food, natural resources, the environment, patent and copyright law, health care, energy, telecommunications and financial services. As the Ranking Member of the House Financial Services Committee, it is particularly important to me that my committee be consulted about any provisions affecting financial services.

Past trade negotiations have resulted in NAFTA, the creation of the World Trade Organization, and Free Trade Agreements with Central American countries, Peru, Panama, Colombia, and South Korea. All of these agreements were promoted by large corporations, which claimed they would create jobs. But these were empty promises, and many of these same large corporations have continued to ship jobs overseas.

What American workers need is good jobs with good pay. That is why we need to make this discussion of the wage gap and the minimum wage a top priority.

The Federal minimum wage has been stuck at \$7.25 per hour for the past four years. The value of the minimum wage has not kept up with the cost of living, and record-breaking corporate profits have not trickled down to working people.

The real value of the minimum wage is at a historic low. Today, 40 percent of American workers actually make less than the minimum wage was worth back in 1968. That is almost one quarter of American workers. Too many American families who depend upon the minimum wage are seeking Food Stamps and Section 8 housing assistance and are constant visitors to our food banks.

The American people understand the importance of fair wages, and many States and local communities have taken matters into their own hands. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 19 States and the District of Columbia already have a minimum wage that is higher than the Federal minimum wage.

The National Conference of State Legislatures also reports that in 2013, the legislatures in California, Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island all passed bills to increase the minimum wage beginning in 2014. The legislature in California increased the minimum wage

to \$10 an hour by 2016. In New Jersey, voters approved a constitutional amendment to increase the minimum wage. In Maryland, the county councils in Montgomery and Prince George's counties both voted to increase the minimum wage to \$11.50, higher than any rate currently in effect in the United States.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act—H.R. 1010—would increase the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour over three years and then index it to inflation. I am one of 150 cosponsors of this bill.

It is time for Congress to debate the issue of raising the minimum wage, as well as other policies to address the growing wage gap in our country. This debate must take place in full view of the American public.

Increasing the minimum wage will send a clear signal to Americans that we understand that the benefits of growth and free trade need to be more broadly shared in society. It's the right thing to do morally, economically, and politically.

RECOGNIZING THE ACADEMY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Academy for Information Technology of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. The Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and the Academy for Information Technology is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

HONORING MOUNT OLIVE CHURCH CEMETERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a historically significant polyandrium within the Bolton community, the Mount Olive Church Cemetery.

With its beginnings dating well into the early 1800s, the Mount Olive Church Cemetery originated as the Fork Hill Cemetery, located at the intersection of Joe Hall Road and Mount Olive Road in Bolton, Mississippi. The cemetery was later moved and renamed the Mount Olive Cemetery in the late 1800s. For over 200 years, this cemetery has served as the final sepulture for so many in the Bolton community, especially for African Americans.

Generations of families, many of whom were not members of the Mount Olive Mis-

sionary Baptist Church (who maintains the cemetery) have been laid to rest in this cemetery. Because of the enforcement of segregation laws, the prospect of African Americans to seek burial of loved ones in appropriate, designated burial grounds was sometimes a far-fetched and difficult task. Unlike their White counterparts, African Americans would at times have to resort to burying their loved ones in non-traditional sites located outside of a designated cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Mount Olive Church Cemetery for providing and remaining a historically significant sacred final resting grounds for so many African Americans during a period of legal segregation. Its historical significance serves as an important tool for reflection for those who experienced such segregation as well as for future generations to honor and cherish within the Bolton community.

BATAVIA CLAIMS FIRST STATE FOOTBALL TITLE IN "BATTLE OF THE BULLDOGS"

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Batavia High School Bulldogs for winning their first-ever Illinois state football championship.

On Saturday, November 30 Batavia faced off against Richards High School—which shares the same nickname—in an epic "Battle of the Bulldogs."

At NIU's Huskie Stadium in DeKalb, an estimated 12,000 Batavia fans roared as quarterback Micah Coffey threw for two touchdowns, and running back Anthony Scaccia ran for three more.

Both teams fought hard but Batavia prevailed, capping their virtually undefeated season with a 34–14 victory.

I commend Coach Dennis Piron and the entire Bulldogs team for the hard work that went into a strong 13–1 season and the IHSA Class 6A State Championship.

Go Bulldogs!

IN HONOR OF THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S PLACE AND ITS MISSION TO CREATE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN LOUISVILLE, KY

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, for the past 130 years, Family & Children's Place has been a leader in providing support to Louisville-area families living in crisis and developing national models for service to improve children's academic performances and home lives.

Family & Children's Place was established in 1883 to help feed, clothe, and shelter families in need. Since then, it has evolved to meet new needs and challenges facing chil-

dren and families affected by abuse, neglect, and violence.

The organization was among the first in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to recognize the growing problem of child abuse and neglect, and responded by doubling its efforts to ensure at-risk families and those affected have the opportunity to heal, grow, and thrive in a safe environment. It has continued to play an instrumental role by establishing the only comprehensive child-friendly treatment and evaluation center for sexually-abused children in the Louisville region.

Nationally, Family & Children's Place has created model programs to help teach parenting skills to first-time parents, improve academic success rates for children, reduce the incidence of drug abuse, and ensure stable housing and self-sufficiency for families at risk of homelessness.

Today, Family & Children's Place serves a 17-county region encompassing Louisville, Southern Indiana, and the surrounding area. Last year alone, the organization provided assistance to more than 6,500 children and family members, and was able to end the cycle of child abuse for another 1,200 children.

Mr. Speaker, as Family & Children's Place embarks on its 131st year of remarkable service, I am confident it will continue to strengthen our community by inspiring and empowering others through its exceptional work.

Congratulations to Dan Fox, CEO of Family & Children's Place; Pam Darnell, President; Bill Meyer, Chairman of the Board; and to all the employees and volunteers on 130 years of dedicated service to our community.

HONORING WILLIAM FRANCIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Francis upon his retirement as a District Attorney Investigator for the County of Napa. I thank Mr. Francis for his more than twenty-eight years of dedicated service to the people of Napa County, during which time his commitment to improving the safety and well-being of the Napa community is both admirable and deserving of recognition.

Mr. Francis began his career in public service in 1981 as a reserve police officer with the City of St. Helena. He then went on to work as a Napa County Sheriff's Deputy in 1985 before beginning his career as an Assistant District Attorney Investigator for the County of Napa in 1997.

Mr. Francis has also been involved with a wide variety of organizations dedicated to improving the wellbeing of the Napa community. He has been a member of the California Sexual Assault Investigator's Association, California Homicide Investigator's Association, Napa County Homicide Task Force, Tri County Investigator's Association, Western State's Livestock Investigator's Association, California Safe and Burglary Association, Governor's Rural Crime Prevention Task Force and the California Crime Prevention Officer's Association. He is currently a member of the California District Attorney Investigator's Association as well as the National Senior Pro-Rodeo

Association. Notably, Mr. Francis won the 2010 Investigator of the Year award given by the California District Attorney Investigator's Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Mr. Francis for his invaluable service to the County of Napa. William Francis' unyielding dedication to making Napa County a safer place to live, work and raise a family is greatly appreciated by the entire Napa community and we wish him a most enjoyable retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF PRIORITY-TWO
(P-2) REFUGEE IMMIGRATION
STATUS FOR AHISKA TURKS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Ahiska (Meskhetian) Turkish community, a distinct minority group that has faced statelessness, discrimination, and violent attacks in the former Soviet Union for nearly 70 years. Given recent reports of active and severe persecution against Ahiska Turks in southern Russia at every socio-economic and political level because of their ethnicity and religion, I urge the U.S. Department of State to re-establish Ahiska Turks as a group of "special humanitarian concern" for Priority-Two (P-2) processing for refugee status.

The Ahiska Turks, who were uprooted and resettled from their ancestral lands in the Soviet Republic of Georgia by Stalin in 1944, have been perennial refugees since then, and unable to return to their homes. Much of the refugee community is now centered in the Krasnodar region of southern Russia, led by Governor Alexander Tkachev. The Ahiska Turk community numbers less than 19,000 in the Krasnodar region, with thousands more in the nearby Rostov region and Kabardino-Balkaria, for a total of 80,000 in all of Russia.

Between 2004 and 2007, roughly 12,000 Ahiska Turks came to the United States under a special refugee status known as P-2, settling all over the United States, including in Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Missouri, Kentucky, Texas, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, and many other states. This resilient community has been able to fully integrate into American society, and has proven itself to be a great asset in their new home states by becoming entrepreneurs and creating opportunities for others.

Unfortunately, Ahiska Turks lost their P-2 status when it expired in 2007. For those who remain stateless in southern Russia, their struggles continue. The discrimination and ethnic persecution of the Ahiska Turks by the Russian authorities, as well as vigilante and Cossack paramilitary forces, has been documented by the U.S. State Department, the Russian human rights organization "Memorial," and the media, most recently The New York Times.

Furthermore, an October 2013 report by the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance, which dedicates a section to Ahiska Turks, indicated that the situation in southern Russia remains "very bad" for ethnic minori-

ties. The report also goes on to explain that human rights organizations' efforts to monitor and report on the situation have been met with "hostility by the authorities, including criminal investigations and prosecutions."

Mr. Speaker, issues of human rights and the ethnic persecution of Ahiska Turks in southern Russia remain serious concerns. Although the Ahiska Turkish diaspora, particularly in the United States, and various organizations have long advocated for renewed resettlement assistance, the international community remains largely unresponsive. Therefore, I believe that it is long past time that the State Department re-institute P-2 status for Ahiska Turks and resume the implementation of a successful program that has not only improved the lives of refugees, but also enriched the communities they joined.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL R.
MOON ON ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, honor and congratulate an outstanding constituent of my district, Daniel R. Moon of Scout Troop 931 in Oviedo, Florida, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in scouting. To attain this rank, he has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, self-discipline and perseverance while serving his family, friends and community. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout. The awarding of the Rank of Eagle Scout is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well maintained over the past century.

Daniel Moon has met every test and challenge to pass through the ranks of the Boy Scouts. Those aspiring to be Eagle Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills. To demonstrate proficiency as a scout, each Boy Scout must achieve merit badges in the areas of First Aid, Citizenship, Environment, Fitness, Family Life and much more.

The work ethic Daniel has shown in his Eagle Scout projects, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes about his commitment to assisting his community and serving a cause greater than himself. It is my honor to commend Daniel Moon for his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout. Daniel will join the ranks of fellow Eagle Scouts like President Gerald R. Ford, Neil Armstrong and Florida Governor Rick Scott.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. Daniel's devotion to the Boy Scouts over the past decade is laudable, and I congratulate him on his achievement. I thank him for his dedication to service and know we can expect great things from him in the future. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Daniel Moon on obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING LARRY CIESLA

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's 4th Congressional District is home to countless special people and businesses. Today I rise to honor Larry Ciesla, one of those special people who has made a major impact at Intrado, Inc., a company in my district that has played a significant role in providing our country's 9-1-1 emergency system. This month, Larry will retire after more than 40 years in this mission-critical industry.

Larry began his telecommunications career as an engineer with Western Electric, which later morphed into Bell Labs, AT&T Technologies and eventually Lucent Technologies. Before and after Intrado acquired Lucent's Public Safety Division, Lucent's switch engineers recognized Larry's special capabilities and came to respect his expertise in 9-1-1 switching functionality—presenting Larry with the Bell System's prestigious "Distinguished Member of Technical Staff" award. It was in those early years when Larry's visionary participation in standards development and his pioneering contributions led to the technical foundation for what we all know today as Enhanced 9-1-1 service.

Larry can count among his accomplishments his role as the chief architect of the AT&T E9-1-1 database management system, his leadership in developing a geo-spatial 9-1-1 database which was a precursor for locating mobile 9-1-1 callers used today, and his co-authorship of the technical paper that defined the method used today for routing wireless 9-1-1 calls—ensuring that those calls for help at a time of need are delivered to the appropriate public safety agency.

Larry is credited as an inventor or co-inventor of multiple U.S. Patents, including a method for expanded communications in a telecom network and an E9-1-1 architecture for Internet telephony.

Always content to work behind the scenes, Larry has been an unsung hero—responsible for saving countless lives in his four decades on the job. On behalf of all Americans, I commend Larry Ciesla for his dedication, his outstanding contributions, and his impactful service to his country and its citizens.

HONORING MS. MANISHA HEARD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable, well-rounded, and highly driven young woman, Ms. Manisha Heard. Born to Mr. Steve Campbell and Ms. Jean Heard, Manisha was raised in the small, close-knit town of Bolton, Mississippi. As a child, Manisha was an outstanding young woman who was deeply involved in her community and church home. She regularly attends Church of God In Christ and is active in Sunday school and various other auxiliaries.

Manisha is not only a well-mannered young woman, but also exceptionally bright. Her academic ambitions were accomplished and exceeded during her matriculation at Raymond High School, where she graduated in May 2010. She currently is matriculating at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, where she is striving to receive a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Multimedia Journalism. Her ambitious spirit will ultimately lead her into a promising career of on-air news reporting. Alongside her academic studies, Manisha has been involved in a number of extracurricular activities as well, including an avid member of the Jackson State University cheerleading squad, MADDRAMA Performance Troupe, and served as Miss Junior of Jackson State University.

Deeply rooted in her faith, Manisha also continues to remain involved with her church home. She has been crowned Miss Church of God In Christ and served as Assistant Secretary for COGIC club. Manisha truly has a heart to serve others and continues to advocate for her fellow peers. Currently, Manisha serves as Resident Hall Senator for the Student Government Association and has been selected to serve on the president society at Jackson State University. In addition to her other appointments, Manisha will also serve as Women's Philanthropy Ambassador. Clearly, Manisha's peers and university administrators have entrusted her with the responsibility to represent the student body in a variety of capacities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Manisha Heard for her remarkable, ambitious spirit to succeed academically as well as her continued drive to serve and address the concerns of her fellow peers through her appointed service within her church and college community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. THOMAS SHARPE WILMETH

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas Sharpe Wilmeth who will be awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award on Saturday, December 7, 2013.

Mr. Wilmeth was introduced to math and the concepts of math at a young age in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated high school at the age of 15 and went on to graduate magna cum laude with a degree in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1935. Mr. Wilmeth then worked for various businesses where he focused on increasing efficiency and productivity while reducing costs. In 1949, he and his brother started Scot Industries. Mr. Wilmeth used his engineering background and education to establish a metal honing business that produced better, more efficient and less expensive products, such as hydraulic cylinders, metal tubing, and metallurgy. He now lives in Daingerfield, Texas and after 45 years of success, Scot Industries has 13 different locations and has built an international reputation for quality and technological leadership in the areas of specialty metal bars and high pressure efficient metal tubing.

Since obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout at the age of 15, Mr. Wilmeth has remained true

to his scouting promises of kindness, generosity, and sharing. As a lifelong entrepreneur and philanthropist, he continually contributes to his alma mater, Purdue University, and to the Boy Scouts of America, where both BSA councils in Indianapolis, Indiana and NeTse0 Trails have greatly benefited. With his background, it is evident Mr. Wilmeth deserves the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, acknowledging his achievements and success within his field and his outstanding record of voluntary service to his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Thomas Sharpe Wilmeth as he receives this prestigious award.

HONORING STEPHEN KLEIN

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, today, Stephen Klein, a long serving and widely respected Vermont public servant, is receiving the prestigious Stephen D. Gold Award from the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) here in our Nation's capitol.

The Gold Award is presented by NCSL, in conjunction with the National Tax Association and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, to an individual who has made a significant contribution to public financial management in State and local finance. Those who know the serious fiscal challenges our small State has faced in recent years know Stephen deserves this award, and much more.

Vermont has an unusual, perhaps unique, way of grappling with fiscal issues. The Joint Fiscal Office, directed by Stephen since 1993, is a non-partisan office providing financial analyses to the Vermont General Assembly. It serves the so-called "money committees"—Appropriations, Ways and Means, and Finance. It serves Republicans and Democrats. It serves the majority and minority parties. And during Stephen's tenure both parties have been in both positions.

Vermont, like most States, has faced contentious fiscal issues—school finance, health care funding, recessions, and conflicting and fiercely debated taxing and spending priorities. Yet through it all, with Republican and Democratic majorities and Republican and Democratic governors, Vermont experienced in Stephen an assured, creative, and honest leader who helped us—through good times and bad—balance our budgets, meet our priorities, and plan for our future.

Stephen Klein's accomplishments are significant: balancing budgets in a State without a balanced budget amendment, creating a process for all stakeholders to agree on revenue estimates, and establishing a matching endowment fund for the Vermont State Colleges, to name just a few.

But if his competence earned him universal respect, it is his personal qualities that have endeared him to all who know him—professional and emotional generosity, a twinkling smile and sense of humor, a hectic but focused energy, respect for his long serving and able staff, his humility, and his genuine respect for every legislator.

As hard as Stephen has worked for the State of Vermont, he has served in many other ways including as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras and the Dominican Republic, a member of the Randolph School Board, and a director of the Hunger Mountain Food Coop. Blessed with a loving family—his wife, Pricilla, and his children, Elana and Jonathan—Stephen is a Vermonter who makes his fellow Vermonters proud.

REMEMBERING PRIVATE PAUL M. JOHNSON

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 72nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. As we remember the day that lives in infamy, we must stir our memory of those lost and whose sacrifice anchors Pearl Harbor's significance.

Private Paul M. Johnson was born in 1922 in Waterbury, Connecticut. The son of a popular Waterbury Police Detective, he lived on Greenwood Avenue, attended Mary Abbott Grammar School, graduated from Leavenworth High School and was a member of Beth-El Synagogue. His uncle, Private David L. Fannick, was killed on the battlefields of France in June of 1918, inspiring the formation of the local David L. Fannick Jewish War Veterans Post No. 91. Always wanting to be a soldier like his uncle, Paul enlisted on April 23, 1941. Sent to Fort Shafter, Territory of Hawaii, he was assigned to the 40mm Bofors AA, Battery "E" of the 646th Coast Artillery.

During the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Pvt. Paul M. Johnson did what he was trained to do. Pvt. Johnson ran to his station, Battery E, 64th Coast Artillery Anti-Aircraft, and returned fire with his anti-aircraft guns. Pvt. Paul M. Johnson was wounded defending our Nation, and died the next day, December 8, 1941 at age 19 as a result of his wounds. Private Paul M. Johnson was the first soldier from Waterbury to give his life in World War II. His was a sacrifice we cannot repay, so it is our solemn obligation to give it honor. We do that today as we remember the cost of war, the price that is paid, and the promise that we must keep in defending and protecting this great Nation.

PEARL HARBOR

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, an event that changed America and catapulted this nation onto a world stage and into global conflict—World War II. At least 2,400 Americans lost their lives in Pearl Harbor and more than 1,000 were wounded. Each year, we remember the day that changed the nation, ignited the flame of freedom and inspired a generation to greatness. And while we seek peace in a tumultuous world, America remains ever vigilant and determined to be free. Pearl

Harbor was not unlike September 11, 2001, when the unexpected attack within our shores also claimed thousands of innocent lives and stunned the nation. Today, we honor those who passed the torch of freedom to a new generation. Because of their sacrifice, America remains a shining light, a beacon to the world, and a timeless reminder of the sacrifices this great nation is willing to make in the face of freedom and liberty challenged.

RECOGNIZING UNION COUNTY
MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Union County Magnet High School of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Union County Magnet High School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and Union County Magnet High School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

HONORING MR. PETER BENJAMIN
LEWIS

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American and dear friend; a pioneering businessman, and dedicated philanthropist; a devoted father and loving husband, Peter Benjamin Lewis.

Peter Lewis was born during the Great Depression in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 11, 1933. The son of Joseph Lewis and the former Helen Rosenfeld, Peter was the oldest of four children. He graduated in 1955 from Princeton University where he met his future wife, Toby Devan. They married soon after he graduated and raised three extraordinary children: Jonathan, Ivy and Adam.

By age 12, Peter Lewis was working at his father's small insurance business. It would become his life's passion. Through decades of hard work—risking, learning, growing—Peter turned his father's 100-employee firm into one of the nation's largest auto insurance companies, the Progressive Corporation. Under Peter's visionary leadership, Progressive became one of the greatest companies in American history, today employing more than 28,000 people.

As a legendary philanthropist to numerous organizations, and as a generous benefactor of great architecture and the arts, Mr. Lewis

leaves behind a notable mark in so many different communities across the country. He has generously donated more than \$220 million to Princeton University, where he served as a trustee. He also held honorary degrees from Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Art.

Mr. Lewis is survived by his wife, Janet Rosel Lewis, of Cleveland, Ohio; his brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Jan Lewis and son Jonathan D. Lewis, of Coconut Grove, Florida; his daughter, Ivy Lewis, of Princeton, New Jersey; his son and daughter-in-law, Adam and Melony Lewis, of Aspen, Colorado; his friend and former wife, Toby Devan Lewis, of Cleveland, Ohio; and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and Mr. Lewis' family in remembering and celebrating the remarkable life, lasting achievements, and indelible spirit of Peter B. Lewis.

HONORING PORTER & SONS'
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Porter and Sons' Funeral Home, Inc. in Lexington, Mississippi.

This funeral service business was established for African-Americans in 1979.

The business was first started by Mr. Lindbergh Porter, Sr., and his wife, Bernice Redmond Porter. They were instrumental in purchasing and renovating the building located at 237 Yazoo Street in Lexington, Mississippi.

Mr. Porter, Sr., and his wife ran the day-to-day operations of the funeral home until later years, when his sons, Byron, Pat and his daughter, Bonita, came on board.

Following the death of Mr. Lindbergh Porter, Sr., and his wife, Bernice Porter, the funeral home became incorporated in 1999.

Today, the Porter and Sons' Funeral Home is in the same location and is still being successfully run by all of Mr. and Mrs. Porter, Sr.'s, children: Lindbergh, Jr., Pat, Byron and Bonita.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Porter and Sons' Funeral Home for its outstanding service to the community.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO PROFESSOR
MENAHEM PRESSLER OF THE INDIANA
UNIVERSITY JACOBS
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Professor Menahem Pressler of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, Indiana. I would like to join Indiana University in recognizing his lifelong dedication to music, teaching, and the artistic inspiration of others.

During Professor Pressler's 60 years with the piano faculty of the Jacobs School of Music, he has earned the reputation as a pas-

sionate and gifted instructor, helping young, talented musicians expand upon their skills and abilities. For his commitment to music and teaching, he has received the rank of Distinguished Professor of Music at Indiana University, and also holds honorary doctorates from several other American universities. Moreover, his reputation among his peers, colleagues, and students serves as a testament to his outstanding character.

Professor Pressler's talents have taken him all over the world, performing in well-renowned competitions and musical events in the United States and abroad. He has performed solo as well as collaborated with groups like the Beaux Arts Trio, which is considered the gold standard for trios throughout the world. He has received numerous honors for his musical performances during his lifetime, beginning with first prize at the Debussy International Piano Competition in San Francisco in 1946. Since then, his career has been world renowned, performing with the orchestras of New York, Chicago, London, Paris, and many others.

I know that Hoosiers throughout Indiana's 9th District are proud to have such a brilliant, talented gentleman reside in the vibrant town of Bloomington. He has left an incredible impact not only in South Central Indiana, but also across our nation and the world, and his life and career are deserving of much recognition. For his continued work at Indiana University and outstanding contributions to music, please join me in wishing Professor Pressler a very happy birthday.

IN TRIBUTE TO GUIDO WEIGEND

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Guido Weigend for his long-term dedication at the Office of Strategic Services. His many years of service have impacted us all. I would also like to thank him for dedicating the majority of his life to the advancement of our nation's youth through his role at Arizona State University. We are in sincere gratitude for the vision, guidance, and leadership he has provided our country.

THANKING THE PARTICIPANTS TO
OUR FIRST ANNUAL 17TH CON-
GRESSIONAL DISTRICT ECO-
NOMIC SUMMIT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank everyone who participated in our First Annual 17th Congressional District Economic Summit on November 22, 2013 at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

The Economic Summit, held in partnership with the University of Illinois, brought together community leaders from across our district to share economic development strategies and best practices to reduce unemployment, create jobs, and strengthen local economies.

The Economic Summit was a huge success because of the participation of our excellent

speakers and attendees. I would like to give my sincere thanks to Dr. Lawrence Schook, Adam Pollet, Steven Bahls, Tara Barney, Dr. Thomas Baynum, Shannon Duncan, and Jeffrey Kaney, Sr. for their astute analysis of the challenges and opportunities facing our district and their willingness to work together to ensure that the 17th District is one of the best places to live, work, start a business, and raise a family.

Our speakers included three exceptional educational leaders. Dr. Lawrence Schook is the Vice President for Research at the University of Illinois and is well known for his work as an educator, biomedical scientist, and entrepreneur. He also serves on the Illinois Innovation Council as well as the Board of Managers for the Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories. Steven Bahls is the President of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and a recognized scholar in business law, agricultural law, and education. Dr. Thomas Baynum is President of Black Hawk College with campuses in Moline and Galva, Illinois. Under his leadership, Black Hawk College serves roughly 20,000 students in degree programs, continuing education, and vocational programs.

Our panels also included prominent economic and community development leaders. We were fortunate to have Adam Pollet, the Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. Mr. Pollet guides and oversees the agency tasked with growing our state economy. Tara Barney is the President and CEO of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,000 businesses and 90,000 employees in the region. Shannon Duncan is a Planning Coordinator with the Western Illinois Regional Council and oversees community development work for many of the rural counties in Western Illinois. Lastly, Jeffrey Kaney, Sr. is the founder and CEO of the Kaney Group, an aerospace company in Rockford, Illinois. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and serves on the board of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council and is Chairman of the Rockford Area Aerospace Network (RAAN).

Mr. Speaker, I want to sincerely thank everyone who participated and helped make our Economic Summit such a success. While there's much work to be done, I have high hopes for our region and look forward to building on the partnerships forged at the event.

MASUD MEHRAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, last week, our community lost a great civic leader, a true American success story and a pillar of the San Francisco Bay Area: Masud Mehran. He passed away on November 26th, at the age of 93, surrounded, as he always was throughout his long life, by his family, by those he loved, by those he cherished most.

Masud Mehran lived the American Dream. He was an immigrant who came with his wife, Maryam, to the United States from Iran in search of opportunity. He got an education from some of our finest universities and traveled across our country. He made his way to the Bay Area, to the region that would be his

home for more than 60 years, and started a business. And over the ensuing decades, he built Sunset Development Company into one of the largest, most successful real estate developers in California.

For Masud, extraordinary success in business was not enough; his values, his heritage, and his conscience drove him to do more—for our community, for our young people, for our state and nation.

Beyond his extensive leadership roles among associations of home builders and developers in San Francisco and statewide, Masud's generosity could be seen in his support for the health of our youth at Children's Hospital; the development of our children in the Boy Scouts of America; the education of our students at Golden Gate University, Dominican College, UC Berkeley, and elsewhere.

His efforts were recognized with the Good Scout award for outstanding leadership in helping to build a better American community; the Democratic Heritage award from the Anti-Defamation League; and the Award of Excellence from the Urban Land Institute for Large-Scale Office Park Development.

All who knew him will long be inspired by his leadership, his values, his strength, and his willingness to give back to those around him. His legacy can be found in the impact of his philanthropy and the example he set for so many others in the Bay Area and nationwide. Yet no legacy—in business or in community activism—could ever compare to the extraordinary pride he always took in his family.

Devotion to his family was Masud's first priority. Dedication to his loved ones was his defining characteristic. Spending time with his wife, Farideh, his son, Alex, and his grandchildren was his greatest joy. He will certainly be missed by all who knew and loved him.

May it be a comfort to the entire Mehran family that so many share in their grief and mourn along their side at this sad time. May Masud Mehran's life and memory forever be a blessing to us all.

HONORING THE COLUMBUS EAST
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Columbus East High School football team.

The Columbus East football team recently captured the team's second state championship. The Olympians won the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 4A State Final 28–27 over Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger. With 3:42 left in the game, Columbus East scored a touchdown, giving them the one point lead that won the championship.

The team embodied the best of Hoosier sportsmanship with their dedication, grit, and execution shown not only in the championship game but throughout the season. For the leadership and support of this championship team, congratulations and accolades go to the Athletic Director and Coach, Bob Gattis, Superintendent John Quick, Principal Mark Newell and the assistant coaches.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in congratulating the Columbus East

Olympians for their impressive victory. I look forward to seeing what each of these talented young athletes will achieve in the future.

RECOGNIZING ST. ROSE OF LIMA
ACADEMY

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Rose of Lima Academy of Short Hills, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. St. Rose of Lima Academy is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and St. Rose of Lima Academy is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SHEILA LEIGH STEWART

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Sheila Leigh Stewart, a former resident of Laurel in the Fourth Congressional District of Maryland. She died unexpectedly and tragically on October 24, 2013. A memorial service for Sheila will be held on Friday, December 6, 2013, at First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Landover, Maryland. I want to remember the legacy Ms. Stewart leaves behind.

Ms. Sheila Stewart had a long and distinguished career of more than 25 years in the broadcasting industry. She epitomized the traits of a good citizen, serving our communities as an organizer of engagement and charitable giving. I join all of the metropolitan Washington area in mourning the loss of a great woman and unparalleled public citizen.

Ms. Stewart was born in Fairfield County, South Carolina, on February 28, 1969. She graduated from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism, and also worked as an adjunct Professor of Journalism at several colleges.

Known by radio listeners as "Ms. Community," Ms. Stewart worked for years in Charlotte at Power98, WPEG-FM, where she served as on-air-personality and news and public affairs director. When she relocated to the Washington, DC, area, Sheila worked as the news and community affairs director for Radio One. She was at the helm of news programming at WKYS, Radio One's DC station, and the company's other affiliates, including Praise 104.1, WPRS-FM.

At Radio One, Ms. Stewart was instrumental in advocating on behalf of community issues,

nonprofit organizations, and events that helped improve neighborhoods throughout our region. She was guided in every way by her faith. Her energy and passion to make change will be missed.

With her passing, it is my hope that Sheila Leigh Stewart has found the peace earned from such a wonderful life. Ms. Stewart made a difference in our community with everything she did, and I am grateful for her life and service to Prince George's County, Maryland, and our country.

On behalf of this House, I extend our condolences to her entire family, especially her precious young son, Jonathan Henry Russell; her mother, Dorothy Stewart; her four sisters; her three brothers; and Radio One, and the thanks of a grateful nation. I will miss her tremendously.

HONORING TELLIS B. ELLIS III

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Dr. Tellis B. Ellis III, who was born in Jackson, Mississippi one of four children born to Tellis B. Ellis, Jr. and his wife Lucinda. Dr. Ellis.

Dr. Ellis attended Jim Hill High School where he excelled at both football and basketball. He completed his undergraduate studies in 1965 at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi with a B.S. Degree in Science. While attending Jackson State Dr. Ellis was honored as a member of Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. He was an outstanding football player for Jackson State and was recruited by the NFL to play professional football for the Green Bay Packers in Green Bay Wisconsin. After sustaining a knee injury, which ended his hopes for a career as a professional athlete, he made the decision to pursue a career in Medicine.

Dr. Ellis was accepted into medical school at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and received his Medical Doctorate in 1970. He completed both his Internship and Residency in Internal Medicine at Meharry Medical College in 1974. Dr. Ellis then returned to Jackson, Mississippi where he completed his Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1977. Dr. Ellis is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology.

Dr. Ellis is active at the local and national levels in the following professional societies and organizations: American Medical Association, Mississippi Medical Association, Jackson Medical Society, National Monitoring Board Member Jackson Heart Study, American College of Cardiology, National Medical Association, Association of Black Cardiologists, Jackson Medical Association, and Mississippi Medical and Surgical Association where he served as President. Dr. Ellis is an active member of the Jackson State University Alumni Association and was honored in 1975 with the First and Only Black Board Certified Internist in Mississippi Award.

Dr. Ellis is a founding partner of Jackson Cardiology Associates in Jackson, Mississippi where he practices with four other Cardiol-

gists. He is Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and an active staff physician at St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital, River Oaks Hospital and Central Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Dr. Ellis is widowed and has one son; Tellis B. Ellis IV. He is the proud grandfather of Brian Ellis.

Dr. Ellis is a member of Pearl Street AME Church in Jackson, Mississippi. His medical special interest is Congestive Heart Failure and in his leisure time he enjoys fly fishing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Tellis B. Ellis III for his dedication to serving others.

IN HONOR OF MARGARET "PEGGY" McMAHON

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret "Peggy" McMahon for her years as a nurse and as an advocate for those with whom she worked.

For over forty-six years, Ms. McMahon has dedicated her life to nursing. In 1965, she joined the Army Student Nurse program while attending the Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing. Three years later, Ms. McMahon was dispatched to Vietnam as an emergency and trauma nurse in the 85th Evacuation Unit in Qui Nhon and the 95th Evacuation Hospital in DeNang. While in Vietnam, Ms. McMahon was a fearless first-responder, providing emergency care to injured soldiers before they could see a doctor.

After her tour in Vietnam, Ms. McMahon returned to Williamstown, NJ to further her education. She received a bachelor's degree and master's degree, a Family Nurse Practitioner's certificate, and she also served as president of the Emergency Nurses Association. Since then, she has worked adamantly to make sure her fellow emergency nurses are recognized for their service and sacrifice. Ms. McMahon became an influential voice in the efforts to create the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington, DC. This past Veterans Day, Ms. McMahon and other wartime nurses were honored at the Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. McMahon's selflessness should be an example to all. I join all of South Jersey in thanking Ms. McMahon for her years of service to her country and community.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,223,254,862,815.39. We've added \$6,596,377,813,902.31 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COALITION TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, a Virginia-based 501(c)(3), non-profit, non-partisan organization, established in 2004 to provide severely wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families, with emergency financial assistance and other support services to help them recover from their injuries and rebuild their lives. CSAH is headquartered in Leesburg, which in my Congressional district in Loudoun County, and serves military veterans and their families living in the Commonwealth as well as nationally. All funds needed to develop and manage programs that advance its mission come from contributions to CSAH by individual citizens, corporate donors and foundations.

The mission of the Coalition is to ensure that our war-weary nation should not lose sight of its obligations to those who are protecting our freedoms. These true American heroes often receive little or no support from the nation for which they sacrificed so much. Because of a shortage of funding and an interminable bureaucratic backlog at the Veterans Administration, they wait for roughly a year, on average, to receive disability pay and benefits. Thousands do not get proper care for PTSD because it is largely misunderstood.

Under the leadership of David Walker, who serves as President and CEO, the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes helps severely wounded veterans and families of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom living in the Commonwealth of Virginia and across the country recover from their injuries and illnesses by providing emergency financial aid and other support services, in hopes that the veterans are able to transition successfully into civilian life. Additionally, the Coalition's emergency aid services responds to trends associated with suicide among veterans (24 per day), a sky-rocking divorce rate (60 percent among actives), and growing domestic abuse.

Last year as one of his first acts, Walker restructured The Coalition's budget so that it could give more directly to veterans and organizations that support them, with programs that include: emergency financial aid to help through crisis situations (evictions, car reposessions, etc.); training seminars; a call center program to provide veterans and spouses the opportunity to work on a part-time basis (some of the program's participants have moved on to part-time or full-time employment in the private sector); equine-therapy programs and more.

In 2013 alone, the Coalition will have donated nearly \$1 million in direct aid to veterans, in addition to managing the many other CSAH programs that are available to wounded veterans (conferences, holiday gift checks, education and training, etc.).

The Coalition has made eight grants totaling over \$80,000 to organizations based in Virginia and Washington, D.C., including: Horses Helping Heroes Project, which provides no-cost, equine-assisted activities and therapies

for wounded veterans in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia; Institute for Veterans Education and Training (IVET), which offers week-long training programs for veterans and their spouses; over \$50,000 to complete the construction of transitional housing for formerly homeless veterans living in Washington, D.C.; Final Salute, Inc., to provide safe and suitable transitional housing for homeless female veterans; Boulder Crest Retreat in Bluemont, VA, a new retreat for veterans seeking physical, mental and spiritual recovery from the wounds of war; Dog Tag Bakery, a not-for-profit venture dedicated to helping wounded veterans re-assimilate to civilian life by providing on-the-job bakery training and a tailor-made curriculum at the School of Continuing Studies at Georgetown University; etc.

In addition, this year, The Coalition was nominated for the Virginia First Lady's Opportunity Hall of Fame Awards, which recognizes leading Virginia nonprofits.

In April 2013, WTOP radio (CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C.) commended The Coalition by calling it a key resource responding to the problem of the growing back-log of U.S. Veterans Administration disability claims (which can take on average up to one year before veterans receive their disability payments).

Virginia has a proud tradition of military service to our nation, and is the grateful home of millions of veterans and their families. I am especially proud of the work of the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes and the work it is doing to fill a terrible void in our society. I commend The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, which honors and remembers our heroes by helping them transition into civilian life so they may prosper.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PHILLIP G. COOP, FOUNDER OF ENSAFE INCORPORATED

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of long-time Memphian Phillip Coop, founder of EnSafe Inc. and a pioneer in the field of environmental remediation. Phillip Coop founded EnSafe Inc. in 1980, and began with only two people on board. Since then, EnSafe has expanded to employ over three hundred people, earned Memphis Business Journal's Small Business of the Year distinction and received many other distinguished awards. The success of EnSafe is a testament to Mr. Coop's entrepreneurial spirit and incredible ingenuity.

More than thirty years later, Mr. Coop is still leading efforts in environmental sustainability by combining business, science and policy to ensure continued improvement in how we conserve energy, establish meaningful and practical regulations, and accurately evaluate our environmental performance. Mr. Coop also serves on the Board of Advisors for both the Herff College of Engineering at the University

of Memphis and the Engineering Department at Christian Brothers University. In addition, he received the inaugural Distinguished Leadership Award from the Environmental Financial Consulting Group in New York, and was honored with induction into the Society of Entrepreneurs in 2010.

Phillip Coop's achievements in environmental preservation and dedication to enriching programs in education have done great things for the city of Memphis and for people across the United States. His work serves as an example of how we all can contribute to making our community a better place to live. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Phillip Coop on his achievements.

RECOGNIZING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Immaculate Conception School of Annandale, New Jersey for being named a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education.

The Department of Education acknowledges schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals. Immaculate Conception School is a proud example of academic excellence where students have high levels of performance, stellar student achievement and where educators facilitate a strong learning environment.

I congratulate the students, faculty and community on this high honor. This is a prestigious award to receive and Immaculate Conception School is a proud example of academic excellence and worthy of this national distinction.

HONORING WATERLOO MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Waterloo Missionary Baptist Church.

According to deeds found in the Jefferson County Office of the Chancery Clerk, Waterloo Missionary Baptist Church (1870) is one of the oldest recorded established Black churches in the county. According to oral records, Waterloo Missionary Baptist Church was established prior to the Civil War (Histories written by members of church).

The Waterloo Colored Baptist Church, as it was filed in the Jefferson County Courthouse, was organized in 1870 and recorded in January 1871. On November 25, 1871, an agreement was made between Mr. B. J. Watkins and his wife, Mrs. Anna Jane Watkins, the pastor and several deacons of the church to

purchase two acres of land at a cost of one hundred dollars. The pastor and deacons who secured the land were: Rev. J. D. Weston, Deacons, Mason Boones, Joshua Weston, and Thomas Chambers. Waterloo Colored Baptist Church was said to have been founded as a place of worship for the slaves of the Waterloo Plantation, which was located in Jefferson County.

On April 18, 1924, Deacons A. H. Tooley, H.C. Jones, and A.B. Murphy paid the sum of twenty dollars to purchase an additional one half acre of land from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Watson. To date, there have been four church structures erected on this land. The church also doubled as a school to teach the children in the surrounding communities.

The first church was destroyed by fire on December 20, 1929 because of the carelessness of the school children. In 1930, the deacons and men of the church erected a small building that served as a school, and was also used for church services. When revival was held in August of that same year, the deacons and members built a 'brush shed' in front of the school and used the school's porch for the pulpit.

By the end of 1930, a new church structure was built by Brother Dangerfield from Harriston, Mississippi which was also destroyed by fire on February 3, 1931. The third structure was built in 1937 under the supervision of Brother Joshua A. Weston, Sr. and Waterloo held their monthly services at Morning Star Baptist Church.

The first church cornerstone was laid on April 30, 1961 under the leadership of Pastor James N. Dorsey, who was installed as the pastor on January 16, 1956 and served the congregation until January 21, 1979. From 1956 to 1959, Rev. Joe Thomas served as interim pastor while Rev. Dorsey served in the military. In 1980, renovations were made on this structure under the leadership and guidance of Pastor Floyd Rice, who was installed as pastor on May 12, 1979 and served until September 12, 1984.

The third structure stood until 1996 when the present structure was built under the leadership of Pastor Leon Howard who was installed on November 15, 1985 and he is currently pastor. Dedicatory services were held for the new church on October 14–18, 1996 and Sunday, October 20, 1996. Major renovations were completed on this building in 2008 with Re-dedicatory Services being held on September 16–17, and Sunday, September 21, 2008.

Pastor Howard's leadership has increased membership, financial conditions and in organizing First Sunday Worship Service and the Youth Department was organized with Rev. Curtis Smith, the youth minister. In January 2000, first Sunday Worship Service was changed to Fourth Sunday Worship Service starting at 8:30 a.m. In September 2008, Reverend Arthur Williams was installed as assistant pastor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Waterloo Missionary Baptist Church for its outstanding service to the community.